



2019 Landgrove, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2019



Jerry Evarts watches carefully as he takes a pull while boiling down the sap into maple syrup. photo: Chrystal Cleary

*Cover photo: Jonny enjoys spectacular skies from this view up on Buffum Hill.
photo: Kerry Howard-Brown*

Have you taken a great photo of our town or its residents?
Send it along to townoflandgrove@gmail.com.

2019
ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF LANDGROVE
VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

AUDITORS

ELIZABETH DEE • MARY ENGLISH • ANNE MCCLARAN

Town Meeting Information

Monday, March 2nd, 2020 at 6pm

Landgrove Town Hall

Potluck Supper to follow.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

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TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Vital Statistics Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population	111	
Voters	126	
Area	5,586 acres	
2019 Tax Rate	Homestead	\$1.8047
	Non-resident	\$1.8581
Total Property Valuation	\$123,968,100	
Number of Parcels:	201	

MARRIAGES:

Stephen Brown III and Kerry Howard
on July 27, 2019

Collin Dailey and Heather Ishu
on August 10, 2019

Anderson Page and Kate Ziegler
on August 17, 2019

Craig Merrill and Sarah Ishu
on September 5, 2019



*Kerry Howard-Brown and Stephen
Brown at the Landgrove Tennis
Club with their dog Jonny, who
was ring-bearer.*

DEATHS

Beverly Stone: May 13, 1937–February 21, 2019

BIRTHS

Gus Poissant Batogowski on May 15, 2019 to Shawna and Mike Batogowski

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Landgrove Checklist

ADAMS, LEIGH	FOSTER, KATE
ADAMS, RICHARD	FOSTER, RYAN
ALLEN, HEIDI	FREEMAN, BENJAMIN
AMEDEN, JAMES	GELLERT, SUSANNA
AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE	GRAYSON, CARINTHIA
BATOGOWSKI, SHAWNA	GRAYSON, PRISCILLA
BIGELOW, HELENA	HADDEN, JOHN
BIGELOW, JONATHAN	HALL, STEVEN
BIGELOW, MAY	HARRIS, CLAUDIA
BLACK, SANDY	HARRIS, SUSAN
BURKE, AIDAN	HARRIS, THOMAS
CARELESS, AMANDA	HASSETT, JERALD
CHALMERS, CAMERON	HASSETT, VIVIAN
CHALMERS, MAE	HEALY, MIKE
CHECCHIA, MAUREEN	HEINEMANN, NANCIE
CHECCHIA, THOMAS	HENSON, COLLEEN
CHHUN, KELLY A	HENSON, CRAIG
CHHUN, VIRIA	HOWARD, CHARLES
CLEARY, CHRYSYAL	HOWARD, KERRY
CLEARY, JEFFERSON	JEFFERY, MARIAN
CLEARY, RAYE	JEFFERY, MICHAEL
COLE, DALEN	JOHNSON, FRANK
COLE, JULIETTA	JOHNSON, SARAH
COLLINS, SUSAN	JORDAN, JEAN
DEE, ELIZABETH	JORDAN, JENNA
DIBBLE, JOCELYN	JORDAN, ROBERT
DOMBROSKI, JACOB	JOYCE, JILLIAN
DOMMENG, KEVIN	KEANE, JOHN
ECKHARDT, JOHN	KEANE, MARY
ECKHARDT, KIMBERLY	KLINE, CHRISTOPHER
ECKHARDT, LYNN	LAPRADE, VIRGINIA
EMERSON, NATHALIE	LICATA, BRIANNA
ENGLISH, JOHN	LICATA, MARY
ENGLISH, MARY	LUX, HARRY
EVARTS, JEREMIAH	MALLARD, EMILY
EVARTS, KARA	MALLARD, JOHN
EVARTS, PIPPIN	MALLARD, JULIE
EVARTS, QUINN	MCCLARAN, ANNE

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Landgrove Checklist

MCCLARAN, TIM
MCNAIR, DANA
MCNAIR, DYLAN
MCNAIR, MALCOLM
MOLE, MICHAEL
MORFIT, CHRISTINE
MORFIT, MICHAEL
NICHOLS, CLARENCE
NICHOLS, PAULINE
OGDEN, ANDREA
OGDEN, BENJAMIN
OGDEN, CHARLOTTE
OGDEN, JOHN
OGDEN, KATHARINE
OGDEN, MARY
OGDEN, SHEILA
PARKER, BRITTANY
PETERS, JEREMY
PETERS, MEGAN
PETERSON, ALICE
PFISTER, KAREN
PFISTER, KARL T.
REED, SARAH
REED, WILLIAM

SABOL, BROOKE
SABOL, HAYLEY
SABOL, ROBERT
SABOL, TARA
SNYDER, D. JAY
SNYDER, KATHY
SWARTZENTRUBER, JAMES
SWARTZENTRUBER, SONYA
SWEETMAN, CHARLES
SWEETMAN, MARION
THOMSON, KAREN
THOMSON, PETER
TOLBERT, DIANNE
TOLBERT, JOHN
TOMKINSON, VICTORIA
USHER, BARBARA
WAITE, ROBERT
WAITE, SARAH
WENGERD, JOSHUA
WENGERD, NICOLE
WILEY, JOHN
YOUNG, HELEN
ZIELINSKI, SCOTT



Landgrove's Daisy Girl Scout Troop 60250 These plucky Scouts grow and learn together on Thursday afternoons during the school year!

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

TOWN OF LANDGROVE Warning 2020 Annual Town Meeting

Legal voters of the town of Landgrove, County of Bennington, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall at 88 Landgrove Road on Monday, March 2nd, 2020 at 6:00 pm to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to change the term for the office of the Town Clerk from one to three years.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to change the term for the office of the Town Treasurer from one to three years.

ARTICLE 4: To elect the following officers as required by law:

Officer	Term
Town Clerk	1 year <i>(3 years if Article 2 passes)</i>
Town Treasurer	1 year <i>(3 years if Article 3 passes)</i>
Selectboard Member	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Lister	3 years
Cemetery Commissioner	5 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year
Grand Juror	1 year
Town Agent	1 year
Constable	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years

ARTICLE 5: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will authorize its Selectboard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget.

ARTICLE 7: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$7,000 one time funding to the Cemetery Commission to clear the trees, brush and stumps from outside the walls of the Old Cemetery (leaving the old maples) and seed the ground.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as Southern Vermont Communication Union District, under the provisions of 30 VSA Ch 82.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before Oc-tober 1, 2020.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE-2019

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2020 year.

ARTICLE 11: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will agree to meet in 2021 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 1st, 2021) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting.

Dated January 23, 2020

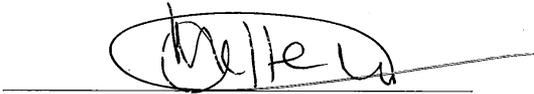
Selectboard of Landgrove, Vermont



John Ogden (chair)



Steven Hall



Michael Jeffrey



Everyone knows Tips, Hazel and Leo! They are best friends who walk together every day from the Village to the Flats, or up to Badgers' field on Ridge Road.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Town Officers Elected

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2020
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2020
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Kimberly Eckhardt	2020
Selectboard (3 year term)	Michael Jeffery	2020
	Steve Hall	2021
	John Ogden	2022
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Mary English	2020
	Anne McClaran	2021
	Liza Dee	2022
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Kim Eckhardt	2020
	Jerald Hassett	2021
	Chuck Sweetman	2022
Board of Cemetery Commissioners (5 year term)	John English	2020
	Clarence Nichols	2021
	May Bigelow	2022
	Jay Snyder	2023
	Lynn Eckhardt	2024
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Kimberly Eckhardt	2020
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2020
Town Agent (1 year term)	John Hadden	2020
Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2020
Trustees of Public Funds (3 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2020
	Sarah Waite	2021
	Dick Adams	2022

Justices of the Peace

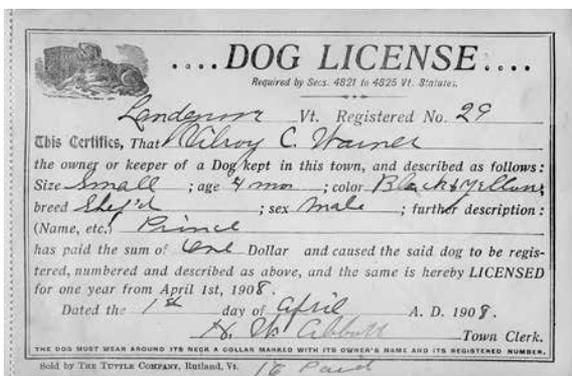
Claudia Harris, Anne McClaran, Christine Morfit, John Ogden,
and Charles Sweetman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE-2019

Town Officers Appointed by Selectboard

POSITION	NAME	3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator	Will Goodwin	2022
Planning Commission (includes ZA)	Michael Mole	2021
	Michael Morfit	2022
	Harry Lux	2022
	Jerald Hassett	2023
	Josh Wengerd	2023
Zoning Board of Adjustment (includes all members of the Planning Comm, Except the Zoning Administrator)		
Health Officer	Cameron Chalmers	2022
BCRC Member	Jerald Hassett	2022
		One Year Term Expires
Town Service Officer	Chair, Selectboard	2020
Emergency Management	John Ogden	2020
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2020
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2020
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2020
Assistant Town Treasurer	Chrystal Cleary	2020
911 Coordinator	Will Goodwin	2020

Please note that all Selectboard-appointed Officers serve from January 1 of their appointment year to December 31 of the year listed here.



From the Vault: Landgrove dog license from 1908 for Wilroy Warner's "shep'd" dog, Prince. Remember to get your annual dog license by April 1st!

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Minutes of Town Meeting 2019

Call to order at 6:01 pm. Lynn Eckhardt led the town in the pledge of allegiance to open Town Meeting, and all were welcomed by Selectboard Chair John Ogden who read the first article.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Claudia Harris was nominated by Michael Morfit seconded by Harry Lux and approved by the voters. Claudia Harris went over rules, and asked non-voters to introduce themselves.

Guest speakers- James Ameden and Don Hazelton from the Londonderry Phoenix Fire Company #6 are here to present their request to the Selectboard for a population-proportioned contribution of \$25,000 toward a new truck. The old one is 22 years old, and it is the one used to respond to car accidents, hazmat spills, CO alarm. New truck cost is \$150K. Fire company is contributing \$45K, Londonderry is contributing \$80K, Landgrove is asked for \$25K. The Phoenix Fire Company is Landgrove and Londonderry's piece of our region's Mutual Aid-serving primarily Londonderry and Landgrove, but also get called to help Peru, Weston, etc. when needed. Lifespan of a truck is about 25 years. May Bigelow says thank you for serving and recognizes the high degree of training and commitment that Phoenix Fire Department has

Stephanie Peters from the Bennington County Child Advocacy Center speaks about her organization's request to become a part of our Town's annual Community Appropriations at an amount of \$500 a year. The child Advocacy Center has filed a petition signed by 5% of the voters to appear on the warning. The Center is non profit and serves victims of sexual abuse of all ages, as well as child physical, medical, online abuse at no cost, since 1989. The Center aids 120-150 children a year, supporting the victim and their whole family to find services, and receive courtroom support. Also provided are prevention education, school staff trainings for response and identifying signs and signals in young people who may need help and safety to come forward. The Center is mostly funded through the Federal-to-state grants, and police grants as well as two detectives are on staff.

Andrea Ogden read a statement from Neighborhood Connections, who are already among our annual appropriations. Neighborhood Connections serves 9 towns and get their support entirely through the Towns and their own fundraisers. Thank you so much for supporting NC all this time.

Linda Joy Sullivan, our representative to the State House spoke as well. Ms. Sullivan reminds the body that she is available at her usual Listening Sessions on the 1st Sunday of every month at Hapgood Store in Peru at 10:30am, and left flyers on some issues coming out this legislative session. Please reach Linda Joy at the following email: lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us

ARTICLE 2: To elect town officers as required by law. (See table below for results)

With two nominees for Treasurer, each may speak briefly, and Moderator Harris reminds all that nobody may "campaign" from the floor in this meeting.

- Incumbent Andrea Ogden declined the nomination.
- Kimberly Eckhardt introduced herself- she has been in town for 10 years and observed the example Andrea has set. Kimberly and also notes some areas of growth she can uniquely provide.

Some discussion about the mechanics of the transition and Ms Eckhardt was asked to highlight her previous job qualifications. Harry Lux closes nominations. The moderator directs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Kimberly Eckhardt for Treasurer. The Town thanks Andrea Ogden for her nine years of service and excellence as Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector.

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officer	term	candidate	Nominated by
Town Clerk	1 year	Chrystal Cleary	Lynn Eckhardt
Town Treasurer	1 year	Andrea Ogden	Nancie Heinneman
	1 year	Kimberly Eckhardt	Greg Eckhardt
Selectboard Member	3 years	John Ogden	Michael Jeffery
Auditor	3 years	Liza Dee	Andrea Ogden
Lister	3 years	Chuck Sweetman	Kimberly E.
Cemetery Commissioner	5 year	Lynn Eckhardt	Clarence Nichols
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year	Kim Eckhardt	Andrea Ogden
Grand Juror	1 year	Claudia Harris	John Ogden
Town Agent	1 year	John Hadden	Virginia LaPrade
Constable	1 year	John Wiley, Jr.	Jeremiah Evarts
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years	Dick Adams	Sally Waite

ARTICLE 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report. Moved by Michael Jeffery, Seconded by Lynn Eckhardt.

- John Ogden spoke about how we miss former Selectboard member Tom Dibble a lot and thanked Michael Jeffery for stepping up to serve on the Selectboard. Note SB meetings are twice a month at 8 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays- we would love to have anybody show up and weigh in.

- Chuck Sweetman spoke for the Listers- As the work of Listing continues to get more complex, they are happy to welcome District Advisor Cy Bailey back. The Listers will expect a town-wide re-evaluation Jan -April of next year (2020), or 2021. Money has been saved up in anticipation of this. If anyone wants to be a Lister and learn to do the job, please speak up - three of them will be interested in retiring and would be happy to help train the next round of Listers.

- Jeff Cleary, Landgrove rep to the Taconic and Green District (T&G) School Board, announced that the \$32 Million dollar budget is voted for tomorrow, even though each Town has its own rep, you do have to vote for 3 other at-large people from the other towns. Chuck Sweetman would like to compliment Mr Cleary and the T&G the school report.

Motion to approve was made by Sally Waite, 2nd by Lynn Eckhardt. Article 3 passes

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will authorize its Selectboard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget. Moved: Harry Lux Seconded: Mary Licata. No discussion. Motion to Approve: Harry Lux, 2nd Sally Waite. Article 4 passes.

ARTICLE 5: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$5,000 one time funding to the Cemetery Commission to upright and repair the headstones in the Old Cemetery and clean up the border walls, particularly those to the back side and sand pile side. Moved: Bobby Waite Seconded: Greg Eckhardt. Motion to Approve: Greg Eckhardt 2nd Jeremiah Evarts. Article 5 passes.

ARTICLE 6: To see whether the Town will appropriate one time funding of \$1,000 to the reconstruction of the observation tower on Bromley Mountain. Moved: May Bigelow,

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Seconded: Virginia LaPrade. Discussion: May Bigelow tells that there was an old wooden tower at the summit for 50 years, but it became unsafe, so a new steel tower is being built for \$260K, Londonderry, Peru, Dorset have all given. The new observation tower looks into all of our towns and will be complete by next year. Motion to Approve: Michael Jeffery, 2nd Greg Eckhardt. Article 6 passes.

ARTICLE 7: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$500 to the Bennington County Child Advocacy Unit and incorporate that into our annual Community Appropriations. Moved: Greg Eckhardt. Discussion: Greg asked what the money goes to, Stephanie replied that we are asking at this time because fed & state money has been reduced. The Center doesn't want to cut back the case manager who goes to the court with the families they serve. Harry Lux asked "what is the mechanic for removal someday of these annual appropriations? Can we alter this from annual to one time?" Jeff Cleary notes that as School Director, he votes to spend lots and lots of money, and it's silly to argue over \$500. John says we need to research ways of removing from appropriations. Jerry Evarts: "If it's a cause you believe in why make them come back over and over every year?" Harry Lux says we need to know the methods - its not about the money or the need, its about the mechanism.

The Lux Amendment was proposed to read "To see whether the Town will appropriate \$500 to the Bennington County Child Advocacy Unit." (Not annual.) Shall we amend?

Yeas and Nays by voice too close to call, Show of Hands- Nays have it - the amendment failed.

Article 7 passes as originally written.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1, 2019. Moved: Harry Lux, 2nd Karl Pfister, no discussion. Motion to Approve: Michael Mole, 2nd Dick Adams. Article 8 Passes.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2019 year. Moved: Sally Waite, 2nd Jean. Discussion - Chuck - the Community Club insurance need is up to \$1700- can we add money for that? Not in this meeting. Motion to Approve: John Ogden, 2nd Michael Jeffery. Article 9 passes.

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles. John Ogden spoke about the fire truck: that it will be equitable to draw the money out of the unallocated reserve, which has been paid into over years, rather than raise money out of a single year's taxation. Townsfolk are encouraged to please come to a Selectboard meeting where the financial decision should be made.

Tom Checchia described short-term rentals' impact on inns, such as vacation homes in the town operating as lodging - has it come to the attention of the SB and are they ready to make sure these places conform to the existing laws? John Ogden replies that Zoning Administrator Hal Wilkins is on this and is taking it up with certain owners. We will figure out what we as a Town can do about it. Moved: Michael Jeffery, 2nd Virginia LaPrade. Motion to Approve: John Ogden 2nd: Michael Jeffery, Article 10 passes.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will agree to meet in 2020 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 2nd) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting. Moved: Marion Sweetman 2nd Christine Morfit. Proposed "Eckhardt Amendment:" "To see if the Town will agree to meet in 2020 on the first Tuesday in March (March 3rd) at 9am for the annual Town Meeting." 2nd May Bigelow

Voice: too close to call, Hands: nay- does not carry. Article 11 Passes as written

Motion to Adjourn- Jerry Evarts, 2nd Michael Jeffery. The 2019 Landgrove Town Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Chrystal Cleary, Town Clerk

TOWN OF LANDGROVE-2019

Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, have, to the best of our ability as lay auditors, checked the Town's year end statements and financial documents that were provided on this the 4th day of February, 2020.

We wish to report that entries that were available for review have been properly made and those accounts are in balance.


Elizabeth Dee


Mary English


Anne McClaran

TOWN BALANCE SHEET

as of 12/31/2019

	2019	2018	\$ Change
Cemetery Checking - People's Bank	12,539.90	8,329.85	4,210.05
Trustee of Public Funds			
Cemetery Endowment Fund	65,928.02	55,013.68	10,914.34
Conservation Fund	27,661.22	22,779.71	4,881.51
Town Accounts			
Stifel Nicolaus			
Operating Account	1,051,795.66	1,080,202.94	(28,407.28)
Reserve Funds			
Cemetery Wall Fund	-	-	-
Equipment Fund	155,000.00	130,000.00	25,000.00
Listers Fund - Reappraisal	11,364.69	18,064.69	(6,700.00)
Records Restoration	496.98	931.98	(435.00)
Town Hall Maint Fund	22,096.57	27,876.57	(5,780.00)
Unallocated Reserve	250,000.00		250,000.00
Total Reserve Funds	438,958.24	176,873.24	262,085.00
Total Stifel Nicolaus	1,490,753.90	1,257,076.18	233,677.72
People's Bank - Cash Account	4,818.04	3,906.02	912.02
Total Town Accounts	1,495,571.94	1,260,982.20	234,589.74

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Cash Account Reconciliation Detail

	Income	Expense	Net Income
INCOME			
Copier	453.00		
Current Use	54,411.00		
Del Tax Penalty Collected	3,819.61		
Education Taxes	1,569,645.53		
General Fund	73,501.14		
Grants - State	-		
Green Mountain Forest	2,250.00		
Homestead Penalties	947.23		
Interest - Op & Reserve	17,264.60		
Interest Del Tax	621.89		
Licenses & Permits	1,693.00		
Recording Income	5,842.00		
Rental of Town Hall	701.00		
Roads Fund	251,894.31		
Tax Adjustments	(6,903.24)		
Taxes Delinquent	4,885.01		
Total Reserve Fund Income	38,500.00		
Transfer Station Income	660.00		
Unbudgeted Misc Income	1,805.68		
VT State Highway Aid	17,143.96		
total Income	2,039,135.72		2,039,135.72

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Cash Account Reconciliation Detail

	Income	Expense	Net Income
BUDGETED EXPENSE			
General Fund		149,282.26	
Roads Fund		249,435.04	1,640,418.42
For more detail, see GF & Roads Budgets			
OTHER EXPENSE			
Civil Union Licenses		300.00	
Education Payments			
MT Towns RED		-	
Taconic & Green		365,374.00	
State of VT - 2nd FY19		615,483.00	
State of VT - 1st FY 20		625,890.10	
total Education		1,606,747.10	
Misc Expenses		472.55	
Paid to Collector		4,658.52	
Transfer Station Expense		750.00	
total Other Expense		1,612,928.17	27,490.25
RESERVED FUND EXPENSE			
Reappraisal		7,700.00	
Records Restoration		1,985.00	
<i>Town Hall Bldg</i>		8,280.00	
total Reserved Fund Expense		17,965.00	9,525.25
NET INCOME			9,525.25

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Statement of Taxes Raised

Taxable Parcels 201
 Taxable Acres 4729.77

	Education	Municipal	Total	
Homestead	1.5611	0.3171	1.8782	
Non-Resident	1.6145	0.3171	1.9316	
	Tax Rate	Grand List	Billed	Collected
Non-Residential Education	1.6145	713,956	1,152,682	1,166,648
Homestead Education	1.5611	324,403	506,426	402,998
Municipal - Roads	0.2455	1,038,359	254,917	251,894
Municipal - GF	0.0716	1,038,359	74,347	73,485
Late Homestead Penalty				947
Total Raised			1,988,371	1,895,972
State Payments via Property Tax Adjustments				63,581



Dutchess on her morning patrol rounds in Landgrove Hollow.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Statement of Delinquent Taxes Collected

Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes
December 31, 2019

	1/1/2019			12/31/2019
Year	Outstanding	Collections	Abatements	Balance
2015	-		-	-
2016	17,572.63	4,885.01	-	12,687.62
2017	5,175.62	-	-	5,175.62
2018	8,996.40	8,996.40	-	-
2019 (10/1)	73,101.65	49,822.22	-	23,279.43
	104,846.30	63,703.63	-	41,142.67

Total Collections	63,703.63
Interest received	3,135.20
Remitted to Treasurer	66,838.83
Del Tax Penalty Collected	4,705.50
Paid to Del Tax Collector	4,705.50

As of 12/31/2019, there are three properties with unpaid taxes from 2016, 2017, 2018, and/or 2019.

Information about which properties are delinquent is public information and is available at the town hall upon request.

Kimberly Eckhardt

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Please note that taxes are due on or before October 1. Payments received or post-marked after that date are considered delinquent and are subject to a penalty fee of 8% and additional interest of 1% for the first three months or part thereof, and 1½% per month or part thereafter, as allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Reserve Funds

The following funds are all held within the Town’s Stifel-Nicolaus cash account. A summary of these funds can be found on the Town Balance Sheet on page 13.

Equipment Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/19			\$130,000.00
Town Appropriation (as voted)	\$25,000.00		
Balance 12/31/19			\$155,000.00
Reappraisal Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/19			\$18,064.69
Town Appropriation (as voted)	\$2,500.00		
NEMRC fees		\$6,600.00	
Balance 12/31/19			\$13,964.69
Records Restoration Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/19			\$931.98
Town Appropriation (as voted)	\$1,000.00		
Recording Fees	\$510.00		
Grand Lists Bound		\$1,945.00	
Balance 12/31/19			\$496.98

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Reserve Funds

Town Hall Maintenance Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/19			\$27,876.57
Town Appropriation (as voted)	\$2,500.00		
Windows Expenses		\$8,280.00	
Balance 12/31/19			\$22,096.57
Unallocated Reserve Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 12/31/19			250,000



Juno enjoys a summer's day in the Utley Flats. Remember Summer?

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

		2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 PROPOSED
1	Income				
2	Raised by Municipal Taxes	101,995.08	67,925.69	66,984.92	75,761.35
3	Add. Appropriations Voted at Town Mtg			6,500.00	
4	Total Voted to be Raised			73,484.92	
5					
6	Copier	784.00	500.00	453.00	500.00
7	Current Use	49,004.00	49,000.00	54,411.00	50,000.00
8	Grants - State	250.00	-		
9	Green Mountain Forest	2,201.00	2,100.00	2,250.00	2,100.00
10	Interest - Del Tax	6,699.88	2,000.00	621.89	1,200.00
11	Licenses & Permits	1,285.85	750.00	1,530.00	750.00
12	Surplus applied to tax rate	-	17,000.94	17,000.94	16,099.39
13	Recording Income	3,593.00	2,000.00	4,567.00	3,500.00
14	Rental of Town Hall	701.00	700.00	701.00	701.00
15	Total Income	166,513.81	141,976.63	155,019.75	150,611.74
16					
17	Expense				
18	Community Appropriations				
19	Bennington County Assoc Against Child Abuse			500.00	500.00
20	The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
21	Flood Brooks Athletic As- soc.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
22	Green Up	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
23	Londonderry Fire Dept.	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
24	Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
25	Mental Health Services	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

		2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 PROPOSED
26	Mountain Valley Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
27	Neighborhood Connections	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
28	So. Londonderry Free Lib.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
29	Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
30	Bromley Observation Tower (one time)			1,000.00	
31	Total Community Appropriations	12,081.00	12,081.00	13,581.00	12,581.00
32					
33	Town Appropriations				
34	Cem Endowment Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
35	Cem Maintenance	6,500.00	6,500.00	11,500.00	6,500.00
36	Reappraisal Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
37	Records Restoration Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
38	Town Hall Maint Fund	15,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
39	Fire Truck Savings Fund				2,500.00
40	Total Town Appropriations	26,500.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	16,000.00
41					
42	Taxes and Assessments				
43	BCRC	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
44	County Tax	8,231.28	8,200.00	8,474.15	8,500.00
45	Londonderry Transfer Station	15,208.63	15,208.63	13,500.66	12,872.74
46	Southwest NH Dispatch	8,966.00	9,217.00	9,217.00	9,494.00
47	VLCT	1,151.00	1,200.00	1,210.00	1,300.00
48	Total Taxes & Assessments	35,556.91	35,825.63	34,401.81	34,166.74
49					
50	Salaries & Stipends				
51	Asst. to the Clerk	-	500.00	0.00	500.00
52	Listers	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,600.00
53	Lister Administrator	-	2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
54	Payroll Expenses	2,668.86	2,700.00	2,875.45	2,900.00

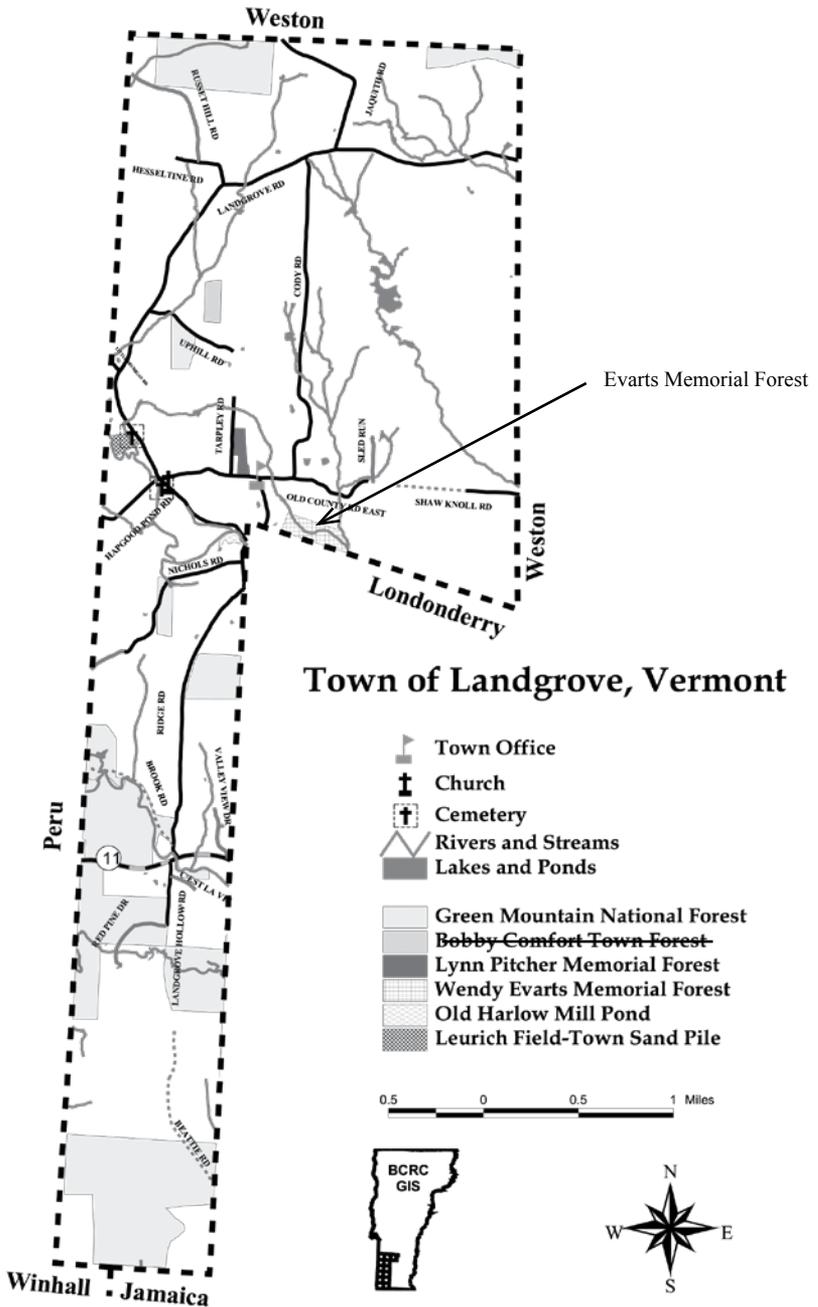
General Fund Budget continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

		2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 PROPOSED
55	Road Commissioner	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,100.00
56	School Director	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,100.00
57	Select Board	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	3,300.00
58	Town Clerk	15,999.88	16,240.00	16,240.10	16,484.00
59	Treasurer	12,000.04	12,180.00	12,034.64	12,180.00
60	Zoning Administrator	3,270.00	4,000.00	1,839.10	4,000.00
61	Total Salaries & Stipends	41,938.78	45,620.00	37,989.29	49,164.00
62					
63	Town Hall & Office				
64	Heat	2,812.94	2,500.00	2,163.81	2,500.00
65	Office Equipment and IT Systems		-	9,604.55	5,000.00
66	Maintenance	6,410.31	6,000.00	5,262.75	6,000.00
67	Office Supplies	4,283.45	5,600.00	5,026.74	1,500.00
68	Training	-	250.00	365.00	500.00
69	Utilities	1,775.83	1,800.00	2,103.47	2,200.00
70	Total Town Hall & Office	15,282.53	16,150.00	24,526.32	17,700.00
71					
72	Other Expenses				
73	Insurance	7,801.49	8,000.00	10,443.68	10,500.00
74	Legal and Accounting	-	5,000.00		5,000.00
75	Listers' Expenses	275.00	600.00	275.00	300.00
76	Town Report	1,003.76	1,500.00	952.00	1,500.00
77	Tax Mapping	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
78	Zoning & Planning	406.42	700.00	251.26	700.00
79	Repayment of Prior Year Deficit		-		
80					
81	Total Expenses	143,845.89	141,976.63	138,920.36	150,611.74
82					
83	Surplus/(Deficit)	22,667.92	-	16,099.39	

TOWN OF LANDGROVE-2019

Map of Town Lands



Map produced January 28, 2016 by BCRC.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

ROADS BUDGET

		2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 PROPOSED
	Income				
1	Raised by Municipal Taxes	190,266.24	180,735.56	251,894.00	149,216.44
2	State Highway Aid	34,286.72	34,000.00	34,593.73	34,000.00
3	Prior Year Surplus Applied to Tax Rate	-	13,344.44	13,344.44	50,698.56
4	Grants	35,513.00	3,700.00		15,000.00
5	Highway Permits	70.00	70.00	85.00	85.00
6	Total Income	260,135.96	231,850.00	299,917.17	249,000.00
7					
8	Expense				
9	Equipment Fund	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	30,000.00
10	Gas & Oil	7,657.48	7,500.00	6,774.78	7,500.00
11	Insurance	2,998.00	3,000.00	2,945.10	3,000.00
12	Machine Maint. & Repairs	11,327.39	15,000.00	12,581.41	15,000.00
13	Misc	2,115.02	1,000.00	350.00	750.00
14	Rent	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
15	Electric	465.24	600.00	335.73	500.00
16	Training	-	250.00	0.00	250.00
17	Repayment of Prior Year Deficit		-		
18	Total General	56,063.13	58,850.00	54,487.02	63,500.00
19					
20	Summer Roads				
21	Chloride	2,250.00	2,500.00	2,874.00	2,500.00
22	Culverts	3,931.00	10,000.00	8,094.18	10,000.00
23	Ditches	12,052.50	21,500.00	20,800.00	20,000.00
24	Grading	10,811.00	10,000.00	10,223.49	10,000.00
25	Resurfacing (Gravel)	69,894.75	21,500.00	25,280.49	25,000.00
26	Roadside Mowing	5,950.00	6,000.00	5,950.00	6,000.00
27	Storm Repair	1,561.00	2,500.00	28,866.28	5,000.00
28					
29	Total Summer	106,450.25	74,000.00	102,088.44	78,500.00

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

		2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 PROPOSED
30					
31	Winter Roads				
32	De-Icer	6,761.64	9,000.00	9,543.55	9,500.00
33	Plowing and Sanding	41,523.00	40,000.00	30,993.50	40,000.00
34	Machine Rental	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
35	Sand	19,512.50	35,000.00	39,606.10	40,000.00
36	Storm Repair	3,981.00	2,500.00	0.00	5,000.00
37					
38	Total Winter	84,278.14	99,000.00	92,643.15	107,000.00
39					
40	Total Expense	246,791.52	231,850.00	249,218.61	249,000.00
41					
42	Surplus/(Deficit)	13,344.44	-	50,698.56	



*Assistant Road
Commissioner Max
supervises the sanding of
Cody Road. Safety First!*

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Selectboard Report

As always, it is important to say “Thank You Very Much” to Jay, CJ, Cameron, and Cameron’s crew for the job that they do maintaining the roads for the Town of Landgrove. As I mention most every year in this report, the job of maintaining our roads has become exponentially more difficult as we are confronted with the effects of our changing climate and the effects of our changing lifestyles. We are dealing with more ice storms, more damaging rains, more mud seasons, more car traffic, and much more truck traffic in our little town. I feel that our crew, under the guidance of the Road Commissioner, Steve Hall, does a remarkable job of keeping our roads in good shape.

As a Select Board, we are trying to be proactive with our road maintenance with the hope that this will help us avoid some of the larger problems we have had in the past. We are becoming much more capable in the process of applying for and receiving grants to help pay for this work. We are also being much more aggressive about getting federal and state aid to help pay for repairs in the aftermath of incidents.

The process of locating a site for the town equipment and sand shed continues. We have some possibilities, and we are making some headway. It is very much my hope that this will be the last report of the Select Board that talks of the search for a site, and that next year’s report will be discussing the financing, design, and construction of the long-awaited shed.

The next time that you come by the town hall for a visit please check out the beautifully restored windows in the schoolhouse. As I mentioned in last year’s report, the select board became more and more convinced that a restoration of the original large schoolhouse windows was going to be a better choice than putting new ones in. We did decide to go the restoration route, and the job is now complete. They look great and are wonderfully functional. I think they have another 150 years in them!

A big “Thank You” to Chrystal and Kim. As the Clerk and Treasurer, they are the ones that are responsible for the vast majority of the day to day management of the affairs of the Town of Landgrove. I would also like to say “Welcome” to Will Goodwin who is our new town Zoning Administrator.

Lastly, I want to make sure that all of the volunteers in town get a “Thank You”. So many of the great things in Landgrove happen thanks to the efforts of a committed group of volunteers. Most of us in town know who these people are so let’s go out of our way to thank them for making our community the great place that it is. And, after you thank them, if you are not one of that core group of volunteers, perhaps you could ask them how you could help them by volunteering yourself. We have had a great influx of new people and new families into our little community in the last few years and I would love to see everyone get involved in making Landgrove vibrant.

There is one organization asking the town of Landgrove for money this year. Please take a moment to review this request and come to Town Meeting prepared to engage in a productive discussion about whether or not the town should be making this investment in our community.

The Select Board meets twice a month and the general public is always welcome. Please come to these meetings with any and all ideas, criticisms, compliments, or constructive advice.

Respectfully submitted,
John Ogden, Select Board Chair

TOWN OF LANDGROVE-2019

FYI

Selectboard meetings are held on the 2nd and the 4th Thursdays of each month at 8am at the Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the meeting. Please contact the clerk a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda. Also, please note that the minutes of the meeting are public record and are available at the Town Hall and on our website at landgrove.vermont.gov.



*Rob Badger's father
William at age 16
with his dog Nick,
1926.*



*William Badger's
dog, Bruce*



*Charlie Richardson
and two of his hound
dogs.*



*One of Richardson's hound
dogs after a good day of
rabbit hunting.*



*Jeanne Hatch and her
dog. She lived in the
house on Rt. 11 right
across from Land-
grove Hollow Road.*



*Edmund, Edith and Blanche
Sheppard of Jaquith Road.*

*Photos curtesy of Rob Badger and
the Landgrove Historical Society.*

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Cemetery Commission

We are pleased to report about the work performed at the Old Cemetery. Many markers were straightened up and secured by Shawn Holden and this project was under budget. The over growth of brush was removed by Jay Snyder, and the Historical Society plaque was reconditioned and replaced. Greg Eckhardt came to our September meeting and shared his ideas about doing some clearing of the area between the cemetery and Leurich Field to make it more usable.

New flags were placed at the veterans' graves and some members of the Historical Society and Cemetery commission cleaned some of the markers in the newer cemetery. Our cemeteries were mowed by Marc Waldo at ten day intervals. There are three markers which need new foundations and Shawn Holden will give us an estimate for this work. Four lots were sold this year and four were transferred to new owners.

There were two internments: Patricia Gwinn and Douglas Moffit

Cemetery Commissioners: May Bigelow, Lynn Eckhardt, John English, Jay Snyder, Clarence Nichols, and honorary commissioner Monk Ogden

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence Nichols

Cemetery Operating Account

	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/19	\$8,329.85		
Town Appropriation (as voted)	\$11,500.00		
Income	\$3,994.00		
Recording Fee Income	\$40.00		
Pot Sales - Recording Fee		\$40.00	
Plot Sales - Endowment		\$800.00	
Overall Maintenance Expense		\$10,483.95	
Balance 12/31/19			\$12,539.90

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Clerk's Report

The off-year between Election Years is a bit quieter for your Town Clerk. 2019 allowed me to focus on completing the Census local address update, implement the new Vital Records law and resulting changes in request procedure, prepare the next batch of land records for preservation, in addition to the day to day recording, marriage licenses, and other administrative hurly-burly.

Two personnel changes in our office pushed me to grow professionally this year. I could no longer lean on the fact that if I wasn't quite perfect in my answer or ability to help someone, that Andrea would be there to add to or amend it. Now I had to fully trust my knowledge and trainings and experience- to really own the Clerk job further than I had grown to that point.

The passing our Zoning Administrator and friend, Hal Wilkins, also left a hole of humor and knowledge. I miss Andrea and Hal, but I also really enjoy working with Kimberly and Will and I feel I have done fine as the veteran person in the office. This transition year has caused us to grow, improve and standardize our process for continuity.

I have always heard stories about the Old Days "when all the land records were kept at so-and-so's house in a box under the bed." Your Town Office in 2019 modernized and increased transparency and accountability in a variety of ways so that in the future, people will not look back on our time here and say "back then all the files were on so-and-so's personal computer."

This year, our office conducted a complete overhaul of our computer, network, and IT structure- everything is in-house and all software used is licensed to the Town. The Town hired Silloway Networks, of Rutland, to replace and maintain our old computers and the labyrinthine knot of Wiffi and other networking boxes of lights and wires which no longer worked but sat on the shelf flickering merrily along anyway.

The most recent Operating Systems that our two old computers could run became unsupported as of January 2020, and only new machines could allow us to move forward with the increasing suite of software needed for everything we do from Vital Records to Voter registration and Election management and the Department of Taxes. All files and programs are now on Town-owned computers, and our network allows staff to share files from a central server. Clerk and Treasurer emails are now .gov addresses, and will follow the office, not the person in the office.

Silloway also serves as our IT Department, ensuring our software is updated and our network is secure and safe. Kimberly, Will and I don't need to track updates or become versed in troubleshooting- we just Work! It was a costly all-at-once upgrade, but had to be done right away, and serves us a great deal better.

Looking ahead, this year is a major, five-election year:

Town Meeting on March 2

School District Election and Presidential Primary on March 3rd

State Primary in August

General Election in November.

We also have the Census ongoing this year, mandated by Congress to be conducted every ten years, so be on the lookout for a card from the Census to respond (most of us can participate in the Census easily online, but if they fail to reach you by post, you may see Census workers in person).

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

There is a petitioned article on the Warning for Town Meeting to increase the term of the Town Clerk from 1 year to 3. This is the prerogative of the voters, and if changed, lasts until the voters decide to change it at a future town meeting. This term follows the office of Town Clerk, not me personally. Factors to bear in mind are:

the only way to remove a Clerk (or other officer) is to not elect them the next time the opportunity arises to do so the security of continuity for a longer term consistency with the many other significant town officers' terms such as Selectboard, Lister, Auditor etc., which are also 3 years.

I will be happy to Clerk on, either way! Thank you again for electing me to serve as your Town Clerk for 2019!

Chrystal Sherritt Cleary



*Matsu on a ruffed grouse
hunt in the forest of
Landgrove Hollow.*

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Landgrove Community Club

The Community Club hosts three events every year – Green Up (1st Saturday in May), July 4th Celebration (4th day of July), and Halloween (October 31st).

By far, the most visible, largest and labor-intensive event is our July 4 community potluck picnic. This year, the volunteers of the Community Club and the Landgrove Select Board worked together to pull off a wonderful gathering in our public field. The Landgrove Inn, which has very generously hosted this event in their field, decided that it was time to take a break. We are so grateful for all their years of carrying a significant load for this event. In 2019, the location returned to Luerich Field. The Select Board built on its commitment over the past few years to increase the maintenance of the field to keep it open and useable for town residents. At their direction, Ogden & Chalmers and Jay Merrill did an amazing job bringing the field back from some serious spring flooding. Both our estimates of total participants and the contributions received from the community were at record levels. Bruno Licata devoted many hours to producing a spectacular fireworks show.

We are also deeply appreciative of the Select Board's commitment to the event by purchasing the insurance for the day's events, in 2019 and going forward. This is a significant burden on our small club, especially with increased costs associated with holding the event at Luerich Field. Attendees of the picnic and other Community Club supporters also generously donated, and we are looking forward to planning the 2020 event with confidence, knowing that we have a strong base to work from.

Second, our annual Halloween trick or treating and potluck has gathered renewed energy and momentum with the arrival in our community of new families with children. And a special shout out to Rob and Carolyn Badger for their role in the pumpkins on the bridge!

Third, we continue to support community service in our annual Green Up Vermont Day, a state-wide event in May to help clean up the roads throughout the state. It is always a fun day filled with treasures and mystery!

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Ogden and Michael Morfit



*July 4th
volunteers
Bruno Licata,
Donny Ameden
and Jack
Nurnberger.*

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Landgrove Historical Society

Our continuing goal is to gather documents, photos and artifacts of historical significance to Landgrove, and to make the collections accessible to the public.

Our office in the Town Hall is open on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The newly framed painting of Landgrove homes in 1980 by Barbara Comfort and the paintings of the Landgrove Meeting House and the Old Coffee House are now on display towards the rear of the Town Hall.

In partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House the Society hosted a talk in November by Paul M. Searls, professor of history at Northern Vermont University- Lyndon. His recent book “Repeopling Vermont,” available for sale in the Society’s office, tells the story of Landgrove, a unique rural community, from the 1880s to the 1970s, focusing on the recruitment of Swedish settlers in 1890 and the contributions of Samuel Ogden from 1929 onwards.

As in previous years, we responded to requests for genealogical information about former Landgrove residents and others with a connection to the town. In April directors received training from the Vermont Folklife Center on the practice of creating oral histories with the aim of continuing the work of collecting the stories of the town’s longtime residents.

2019 Events

In April we hosted the annual pancake breakfast. In its thirteenth year, this event continues to be extremely popular. Pancakes, made by Ann Hausslein and maple syrup from Sugar Bob, were enjoyed by everyone, particularly the children.

On July 4, in partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House and the Vermont Humanities Council, David Eckhardt led the reading and discussion of Frederick Douglass’s 1852 address commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

An extremely successful Square Dance, held in the Bloom’s barn on July 5, attracted an unusually large group of local families and their returning relatives. Dancing was led by the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers.

The summer photographic exhibition “Village Mills,” held in conjunction with the annual meeting on July 14, featured the society’s collection of photographs of the old lumber and grist mills in and around Landgrove from 1801 to 1914 where clapboards, furniture and shoe lasts were made and wheat and corn were milled. This was followed in August when Jonathan Bigelow led a walk to the remains of the dam above the 19th century Turning Works Mill along Jones Brook.

In partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House, Jonathan Bigelow and Greg Eckhardt presented a talk on Climbing Mount Killimanjaro and wildlife in Tanzania in October.

Board of Directors

May Bigelow, President	David Eckhardt
Robert Badger, Vice-president	Susan Goetze
Meg Pennypacker, Treasurer	Sally Ogden
Christine Morfit, Secretary	Marion Sweetman

Advisors:

Jonathan Bigelow	Anne McClaren
Robbie Collins	Andrea Ogden
Priscilla Grayson	Hope Pinkerton
Ann Ogden Hausslein	

2019 total membership 72

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Listers' Report

Once again this was a busy, and challenging year for the listers. It seems every year we have more state reports, more changes in technology programs and increases in the complexity of our responsibilities. The reappraisal/valuation project has required additional time and energy.

This year we are quite pleased to have Cy Bailey return as our district advisor. He is highly experienced and one of the best in the state,

We reviewed, as we do annually, all current use filings as reported by the state. In addition, we reviewed and recorded all property transfers from data provided by the state. New construction and addition projects were also visited to update values.

We held three grievance hearings one of which was appealed to the BCA. We did have a state hearing on an appeal of the decisions by the listers and the BCA from the previous year. The town won that decision.

As mentioned, the computer system, various state software programs, as well as the NEMRC system seem to always be changing or adding new levels of sophistication. This adds even more work and/or the need for more training to perform our duties in an effective and professional manner. Thanks to Kim Eckhardt for handling most of our data entry and technology responsibilities.

All the various state forms and reports were filed on time and were accepted. We should note that Equalized Education Grand List for Landgrove for 2019 is \$98,619,637.

Our CLA (common level of appraisal) for the year is 105.39 %. This is a measure of essentially how close a town's local assessments are to fair market value. A number below 100% means property is generally listed at less than fair market value; however, a number over 100% indicates that property is generally listed for more than its fair market value and will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates. When the CLA falls below 85% or over 115% the state requires a reappraisal.

We also want report our 2019 COD (coefficient of dispersion) is 17.55%.

The COD of less than 10% is considered "excellent" and to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. A COD of between 10%-19% is viewed as "reasonable" where over 20% would require a reappraisal.

The state calculates both the CLA and the COD on the last 3 years of "arms length" sales compared to actual assessed values. We should point out that with relatively few "arms length" sales each year and with the uniqueness and variety of properties in town, CLA and COD numbers can be used as guideposts but could be a little less accurate than in a town with lots of sales and properties more uniform.

As we alluded to in last year's report, we shall compete, by May 2020, a reappraisal/valuation update on all Landgrove properties; we started this process this past August. We have again hired the professional firm of Nemrc to assist us in many aspects of the process including data review, data entry and site visits. We shall also be reviewing our land curve as the normal part of this reappraisal process. We are fortunate that the same senior appraiser who is overseeing this project did the last one in 2014. Moreover, we are pleased that the same Nemrc personnel who, with the local listers visited virtually all properties inside and out in 2014 are involved again. First hand knowledge of all our 201 properties is most helpful and adds to the professionalism of this process.

It should be noted that we have performed a similar reappraisal process in 2008 and 2014. Completing this reappraisal/valuation project in 2020 emphasizes the six-year time pattern that has been used.

Finally, thanks to the property owners, and town officials for their cooperation, and support as we work hard to perform our responsibilities.

Respectively submitted with cheer, good tidings and hopes for a wonderful 2020.

Kim Eckhardt, Jerry Hassett, Chuck Sweetman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

School Director's Report

It has been a year of exploration, laughter, and learning in our local schools. As a parent of young kids, I love hearing the spontaneous stories of the new and exciting at school: science experiments, math games, art projects, gym, a great book, and always... recess. Our kids are known, cared for, and challenged as individuals. For this, I am incredibly grateful.

After many years of generous service to the school board, Jeff Cleary resigned his post in June 2019. We all owe him our thanks! Fortunately, the Taconic and Green Regional School Board spends time in the summer reviewing the structure and dynamics of the board, allowing me to take his place in a smooth transition. Important work of the board since that time has included a focus on educational equity, expanding early childcare, and managing a search for a new Superintendent. Recently, the board has been engaged in deliberation over the proposed budget for this coming year, the key points of which are outlined below.

The budget you will be asked to approve this year for the entire Taconic and Green School District, including its five schools, early childhood (pre-K), and high school tuition, has been warned at \$33,481,460, an approximately 4% increase over 2019. Of note, the budget includes significant increases in costs due to increased high school enrollment and state-negotiated health care benefits, which include rising premiums of over 10%. The budget also includes allocations for early childhood programs to better balance district-wide access, and much-needed socio-emotional learning supports across all schools. In balancing, the budget also includes a reduction in general education spending of \$140,000. The full budget, with further explanations, is detailed in the Taconic and Green Regional School District Director's Report, available at the Town Hall and online on the BRSU website.

Discussion on the T&G School District Directors' Report and budget will take place at 7:00 PM at the Dorset School gymnasium on Tuesday, February 25. Voting on the district-wide school budget, high school tuition rate, school board directors and other items listed in the warning will be held by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3rd from 8am - 7pm at the Town Hall. Although there were significant cost increases outside the control of the board and district administration, this budget reflects the Board's goal of putting forward a plan that maximizes opportunities for all our students, while being responsible to all taxpayers.

As a newly transplanted community member from across the line in Peru, new to the school board, and a parent of school-age children, I want to thank you for your support of our schools, the dedicated staff who keep them running, and all of the priceless moments of joy that children bring to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Freeman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Burr and Burton Academy Sending Town Letter



Dear Sending Town Voters:

We are pleased to submit to you our 2020-2021 sending town tuition of \$17,990, which constitutes a 2.8% increase from the current year. Our tuition for non-sending towns will be \$19,990. This tuition increase will help us to attract and retain outstanding teachers, provide an amazing array of opportunities to students, and remain affordable to our communities.

In reaching this decision, the board of trustees considered the impact of projected salary increases as well as a 12.9% increase in healthcare costs. The tuition increase will *not* cover the full cost of these items; with healthcare costs continuing to escalate, the board of trustees has challenged BBA's leadership to figure out how to stay in balance without passing these costs on to taxpayers. BBA's tuition has increased 2.7% annually over the last decade demonstrating our long-term commitment to maintaining affordability.

In addition to our tuition, we raise close to \$1 million annually to support operations, and we augment annual fundraising with an endowment draw of approximately \$800,000. Through our international program, we attract students from around the globe to enhance cultural diversity and understanding while providing \$3 million in supplemental revenue.

While tuition dollars represent an important source of funds for operations, funding for capital expenditures is raised privately. Private funding has enabled us to create the Target Program, Mountain Campus, the Dene Farm program, invest in sound and projection systems in our Riley Center for the Arts, purchase Steinway pianos, and more. We became an iPad school and have put iPads in the hands of every single student, expanded athletic offerings, constructed a state of the art turf field, renovated our fitness center, and are in the process of building a track and field at the Manchester rec park. In April 2020 we will break ground on Founders Hall, a 25,000 square-foot center for integrated learning.

BBA seeks to be a constant source of strength to our communities, and we are deeply appreciative of the support we receive from these communities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark H. Tashjian".

Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth B. Bongartz".

Seth Bongartz
Chair of the Board

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Treasurer's Report

As I am sure you are aware, this was a year of transition in the Treasurer's office. I appreciate all the support I received from the Town Clerk, Chrystal, while learning the ropes in this position. Her knowledge base and upbeat attitude are an asset to the town office. I also attended training provided by the State for new Treasurers to help make clear the expectations for this position.

This year, an Unallocated Reserve Fund was established. Currently, this fund represents an estimated 13% of our average yearly expenditures, or approximately 76% of our average yearly operational expenses (this value does not include education payments). We anticipate using some of these reserves towards the planned establishment of a town garage later this year. This expense would still leave our Reserve Fund in good stead, while reducing the tax burden on our current population.

Additionally, this year we have finalized a method of payment in our office where townspeople can make payments, from dump cards to tax bills, via credit card. As government entities are not legally permitted to cover the credit card processing fee, this amount is passed on to the consumer as a cost of this convenience. But, you can pay your bills by clicking a button on our Landgrove Town website, how easy is that!

Another improvement this year comes in our IT infrastructure. This year, we had a large initial expenditure for hardware and support. This was required as the two computers we owned were both running on systems soon to be unsupported. In addition, the Treasurer and Zoning Administrator did not have town computers for use. Going forward, we will have an ongoing monthly expense of about \$100 to provide not only IT security but as-needed technical support. This has already proven valuable as we transitioned to an updated Windows system.

For the upcoming year, we anticipate making some changes in how our data is presented. Be on the lookout for a clearer understanding of where and when our tax money is moving when we utilize cash flow forecasts for the next town report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Eckhardt, Treasurer

*Nola knows how nice it is
to grow up in Landgrove.*



TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds manage two funds for the Town of Landgrove -- the Landgrove Cemetery Endowment Fund and the Landgrove Conservation Fund. The management of these funds is set forth in Title 24, Chapter 65 of the Vermont State Statutes.

The Trustees met on January 9, 2020 to review the investment progress of these funds from the prior year. It was agreed that the asset allocation of both funds should be reshuffled to reflect the long-term nature of both of these funds with a higher percentage in equity.

The Cemetery Endowment Fund produced \$1245 in dividends and interest. Trustees agreed to again roll that amount back into the Fund with the goal of continued growth. In 2019, the security performance of the Fund was up by almost \$9000 and overall the Funds weighted return is a little over 18%. We are very pleased with the progress of this fund. Between the Fund performance, plot sales allocation (\$200 contributed from every new sale of a cemetery plot) and the Town's very generous appropriation of \$1000, the goal of generating annually enough interest and dividends to support the cemetery maintenance in perpetuity is within sight.

The Conservation Fund has no mechanism to grow other than security performance, so we are quite pleased that this Fund is up over 21% with an overall change in value of \$4882. For an endowment fund this small, it seems to be well positioned for growth.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Adams
Andrea Ogden
Sarah Waite



Lynn Eckhardt and Geri have always enjoyed the outdoors in autumn up on Russet Hill very much!.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE–2019



photo: Chrystal Cleary

Zoning & Planning

In 2019 we were saddened by the sudden illness and death of our Planning Administrator, Hal Wilkins. We greatly valued his professionalism, knowledge, geniality and unfailing good cheer.

We were fortunate that William Goodwin was able to step into the position of Zoning Administrator in the closing months of the year. We look forward to working closely with him in time ahead.

This year there were 6 permit applications including 2 conditional use applications that required public hearings.

In addition, the Commission has continued to review the implications for Landgrove of the state's encouragement for local communities to designate specific areas as 'preferred' for development of renewable energy (wind and solar). There have been interesting and diverse approaches by our neighboring communities to this issue. Many of them are both time- and labor-intensive. With technical support and advice from the Bennington County Regional Commission, we are continuing to examine the best approach for a small town like Landgrove.

Respectfully submitted.

Jerry Hassett
Mary Licata
Harry Lux
Michael Mole

Michael Morfit
Chuck Sweetman
Josh Wengert

How to Contact the ZA?

Will Goodwin • langvtza@gmail.com
Office Hours at Town Hall: Thursdays 11am–1pm

No Vermonters in Heaven

I dreamed that I went to the city of Gold,
 To Heaven resplendent and fair.
And after I entered that beautiful fold
 By one in authority there I was told
 That not a Vermonter was there.
"Impossible, sir, for from my own town
 Many sought this delectable place,
And each must be there with harp or a crown,
And a conqueror's palm and a clean linen gown,
 Received through a merited grace."
The Angel replied: "All Vermonters come here
 When they first depart from the earth,
 But after a day, or a month, or a year
They restless and homesick and lonesome appear,
 And sigh for the land of their birth.
"They tell of ravines, wild, secluded and deep
 And of flower-decked landscapes serene;
Of towering mountains, imposing and steep,
A-down which the torrents exultingly leap,
 Through forests perennially green.
"They tell of the many and beautiful hills,
 Their forests majestic appear,
They tell of its rivers, its lakes, streams and rills,
 Where nature, the purest of waters distills,
 And they soon get dissatisfied here.
We give them the best the Kingdom provides;
They have everything here that they want,
 But not a Vermonter in Heaven abides;
 A very brief period here he resides,
 Then hikes his way back to Vermont."

Ernest F. Johnstone, 1915

Useful Information

Landgrove Town Offices

Phone/fax: (802) 824-3716
Email: clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov
Mailing address: 88 Landgrove Road • Landgrove, VT 05148
Hours: Thursdays, 9am - 1pm, or by appointment
Website: landgrove.vermont.gov

Town Clerk: Chrystal Cleary
(802) 824-5394 (home)

Town Treasurer: Kimberly Eckhardt
(802) 824-3792 (home)

Road Commissioner: Steve Hall
(802) 824-6622 (home)

Fire Warden: Karl T. Pfister
(802) 824-4663 (office)

Assistant Fire Warden: Jeremiah Evarts
(802) 683-0518 (for burn permits)

Select Board Chair: John Ogden
(802) 366-0317 (cell)

Community Resources

L'derry Landfill & Recycle: <http://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/>
Phone: (802) 824-5506
Open: Closed Wednesdays, call for specific hours.

Londonderry Post Office: (802) 824-6571
Window hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 12 & 2 - 4:30pm
Sat 8:30 - 11:30am

Flood Brook School: (802) 824-6811

Burr & Burton Academy: (802) 362-1775

Green Mtn Power: (800) 451-2877 (report outages)

Mtn Valley Medical Clinic: (802) 824-6901
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 - 5:00pm
On-call phone: 24 hours

VT State Police: (802) 442-5421 (non-emergency)

Senators: Brian Campion, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us
Dick Sears, rsears@leg.state.vt.us

House of Representatives: Linda Joy Sullivan, lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

Town of Landgrove
88 Landgrove Road
Landgrove, VT 05148

TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2020 • 6:00pm

Potluck Supper to follow.

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU
TO TOWN MEETING.**